

(17)

THE
FAITHFVLL
AND WISE PREVEN-
TER OR COVNSELLER:

OR,
NECESSARY CONSIDERATIONS
to be thought vpon by the high
and noble Prince Maurice, by the grace
of God, Prince of Orange, &c.

Touching the Reasons deliuered by the Ambassa-
dours, for the better declaration, defence and furthe-
*ring of their Propositions made touching a Truce
to be observed for many yeares.*

By the which Considerations (being weighed ac-
cording to the state of the present time) euery man
*may plainly see what is now further to be done
for the securitie of the state of
these Countries.*

Written by a Louer of the Countries welfare.

Veritas temporis filia.



IN GRAVENHAGE,
Printed by *Aert Meuris Boeckvercooper.*
1621.

FAITHFUL

to the high

to the high

To the high

To the high

To the high



Touching the first Article, beginning,

First it is said, that the libertie, &c.

Seeing that the whole substance of the Article, onely retaineth this point, that the country after fortie yeares times of warre may be brought to peace and freedome: it is before all other things necessary, that the soueraigntie may be declared and set downe, with sufficient, cleare, and no doubtfull words, in regard that the King of Spaine may otherwise at all times seeke his advantage. Now every man that is of a sound iudgement, may well vnderstand, that the words which men seeke to make vs belecue, do in no sort containe nor include that which we desire. For we seek not, neither is there any need of declaring or manifesting of our freedome, or of a free state, because that we were alwayes free vnder our Princes that lawfully ruled ouer vs according to the lawes and priuiledges of these countries, but wholly to get out of the long and continuall warre that hath bin holden therein. Therefore it is requisite that our aduerse parties should clearely set downe their meaning, that they promise neuer to pretend any thing touching the soueraigntie of these countries. For without that, we can haue no hope at any time to liue peaceably, as by all resolutions made touching this proposition, it was manifestly vnderstood: otherwise that which they promise vnto vs, without the said declaration, serues to no other end, then to depend vpon pretences, and to bring these countries vnder subiection, and the rather, because the words, not to pretend any thing touching our freedome, take not away the pretence touching the soueraigntie, in respect that the freedome and the soueraigntie are two seuerall things; and withall that whatsoever is contained in the treatie, doth expire with the ending

ing of the truce. So that the whole Treatie, after it is expired, is esteemed as not to haue bin made, vnlesse the continuance of the point *for euer* might be expressly vrged; and the rather, for that the Popes Nuncios lying in France, and the Iesuites vse all the meanes they can, to the end that this forme set downe by the Ambassadours, might be found to be good and sufficient, therefore also this word *for euer* ought the rather to be required, in regard that in treaties of peace, comonly there is an article inserted, that the same shall continue for euer. But for that in a treatie of truce, the words *for euer* are not set downe, thereby the soueraignie also is pretended to end and to cease with the expiration of the truce. And the States meaning is, that the soueraignie shall continue for euer, but the Deputies of the Archduke haue roundly and manifestly declared the contrary, that is, that their Masters vnderstand that the same shall continue no longer then the time of the truce.

Touching the Article beginning,
It is also to be considered, &c.

WE seeke not for any grant or gift of freedome, as knowing manifestly that we haue the same of our selues; but herein it is spoken of ceasing from armes, and of reducing the country into securitie: which cannot be done, vnlesse the King of Spaine doth wholly renounce his pretence of soueraignie ouer these countries *for euer*. For that he which this day pretendeth nothing, the next day may pretend some thing; whereby we may see the captiuousnesse and danger contained in the aforesaid forme and manner of proceeding.

Touching the Article beginning;
You ought to desire no more, &c.

What doth this otherwise pretend, then that we should acknowledge the Archduke, or to speake plainly,
the

the King of Spaine for oursoveraign Lord: which maketh vs by all reason to feare, that this truce shall serue onely for a preparation. And whereunto can the same otherwise tend, but that when the enemye shall once haue put vs out of doubt and suspicion, and redressed his state and reueue, he may fall vpon vs, and bring our country into vtter ruine, without any meanes for vs to relieue our selues in any maner, which in truth is his onely desiring and purpose. It being worth the noting, that the Emperour *Charles* the fifth did not content himselfe peaceably and quietly to haue enjoyed and freely possessed the country of *Flanders* for the space of 70 yeares, but also that he compelled *Francis* the first King of France, to renounce the soueraigntie thereof, and that in another maner then is here set downe vnto vs.

Touching the Article beginning,

You need not therefore further to seeke, &c.

THis point is answered before in the first and second Article, in this manner: That it is specially needfull that the soueraigntie should be well expressed, in respect of the nature of the truce; which being expired, all ceaseth; as also the country is full of it selfe, and cannot be secured, vnlesse the King of Spaine doth renounce and abandon his pretence thereunto.

Touching the Article beginning,

We also made this declaration, &c.

THe Article touching the Soueraigntie, is not onely made by the premeditated aduice of the Ambassadors, but also by the same not sufficiently set downe, but rather to be esteemed of no force, without the words, for the present and future time, and for them and their successors: it being alwayes formerly declared, that in the treatie of truce we must consequently and necessarily haue the said soueraigntie for euer.

Touching the Article beginning,

But it is objected, &c.

IT is not sufficient that the enemy saith it; for ~~and~~ the declaration that the Ambassadors made at the generall assembly of the Lords the States upon the 28 of this moneth (when they propounded and deliuered the Articles of the truce) that they had done all that possibly they could, and yet continued and insisted to set downe a firmer and stronger declaration of the soueraigntie, when they alwayes have insisted, and yet insist, to the Deputies of the Archdukes, touching these words, *We hold and declare them to be free States*, manifestly sheweth a notable contradiction, that is, that the forme set downe cannot be holden for sufficient, but rather that they do it by a manner of a discharge, leaving it vnto our selues to iudge of our owne cause. And which is more, not onely the Archdukes are to hold their promises, but also the King of Spaine hath expressly promised by his act of aggregation, bearing date the 18 of September 1607. to obserue and keepe, and cause to be obserued and kept, all and euery point, as well touching the truce, as the peace, binding himselfe thereunto by his princely word, together with all generall and particular renuntiation and acquitall necessary and belonging thereunto. Whereupon the Deputies, as well in the name of the Archdukes, as of the King of Spaine, haue by the treatie of peace agreed vnto the article of Soueraigntie, in such manner and forme as it standeth, which is farre other wise then it is now set downe vnto vs.

Touching the Article beginning,

Therefore we esteeme, &c.

THere is no apparence that the Truce will become a full peace, but for the aduantage of the enemy, when by meanes thereof, at the last they may become Masters
of

of these countries, for the vtter destruction and miserable subuersion of the same.

Touching the Article beginning,

If these reasons content you not, &c.

IT is not sufficient that the Princes hold vs to be free, but it is necessary that all the inhabitants also should be sufficiently perswaded thereof in their mindes, that they may not be forced to looke after the rising of another Sunne. Likewise also the Kings and Princes are bound no longer then the continuance of the Truce, but all the doubt consisteth and dependeth vpon the expiration thereof.

Touching the Article beginning,

Then it is certaine, &c.

THere is great difference betweene the state of a Soueraignie that is cleare without question, and a Soueraignie which may be doubly vnderstood and taken. For that which is cleare maketh the cause of the warre to be of lesse force; and by the other we giue the enemy matter whereby to iustifie his pretences, and a pretence to estrange himselfe from vs, and to draw our confederates vnto himselfe, as by death and procelle of time all things in the world are altered.

Touching the Article beginning,

Then it is, the aduenture of armes, &c.

BY the clearenesse of the treatie, not onely hard and cruell warre would ensue, but also lawfull and vnlawfull; therefore the clearenesse thereof is most needfull for this State: and according to the contents of this Article, there is no need of any treatie at all, seeing that all differences may be ended and determined by armes.

Touching

Touching the Article beginning,
It is said, that the King of Spaine, &c.

IT is most dangerous to trust vnto these vncertainties, the rather, seeing that the French King may serue vs for an example to the contrary: but we must rather beleue, that the King of so great a nation, and one that hath a most great treasure, by lust or for his pleasure may be moued, being thereunto incited and prouoked by his proud glorious nation, to gather a great treasure, with the same to bring these countries vnder his obedience, being they that for the most part haue bin a let and hinderance vnto him, from making himselfe monarch of all Europe.

Touching the same that in the said Article
is contained,

You to the contrary shall not thinke, &c.

WE are so farre from gathering any treasure, that to the contrary our meanes and trade will rather lessen: for the enemies hauens being open, the trade will be driven thitherward, as already by this ceassing from armes we certainly finde, and the commons of these countries complaine thereof.

Touching the Article beginning,

Some also adde therunto, &c.

NO man desireth, that in regard of this feare, the warre may continue; but those that know the humors and practises of the enemy, as also the manner of our state, ought not to reiect this inconuenience.

Touching the Article beginning,

And yet rather in peace, &c.

THIS inconuenience is more to be doubted by a truce then a peace: for they that are so addicted, in the time
of

of truce shall be more fought vnto by the enemy, wherein they will alwayes perswade themselves that they may do it; whereas in time of peace all such likelihoods may be forgotten: and although reason requireth, that in time of truce, men should be warie, yet our state permitteth it not, but our carelesnesse, which by the truce we may fall into, will giue the enemy more occasion to put his accustomed practises in effect, and so in one place or other to lay hold on vs.

Touching the Article beginning,
It is further to be considered, &c.

Few men may do much in our state, either to good or bad intents, as diuers former examples sufficiently declare. And it clearly appeareth, that many also that are borne in these countries, neuertheless are much affected to the enemy, because they haue not tried nor found the rooted Spanish crueltie, as others that are of longer continuance.

Touching the Article beginning,
The danger of practises and corruption, &c.

This is certainly to be cared for, lest any misfortune should happen. Yet the enemy hath not so good an oportunitie to practise his subtrill pretences in the time of warre, as when it is truce; because in time of warre all conuerſation ceaseth. And all these reasons are sufficient, touching our particular, not to further any kinde of truce whatsoever, but the preservation of our native country must alwayes be preferred, for it is impossible to preuent all inconueniences; and honest men that haue done the best they could, may in conscience comfort themselves.

Touching the Article beginning,
There are also some that affirme, &c.

This certainly is a good & conuenient meanes to assure our selues, and such as both in peace and truce ought

to be preferred: for according to the manner of our States;
it cannot afterward be brought to passe.

Touching the Article beginning,
But they add therunto, &c.

THe weakning of our trafficks which truce bringeth
with it, and the lessening of our contributions which
will follow, will not hinder vs from sparing some things
for other matters: and also if it should be so, that a great
part of our souldiers should be discharged, which neuer-
thelesse cannot be done without some great hazard of our
state, which is farre from that, that we might spare more
then the one halfe, and the necessitie or want of meanes
which men propound, is none such that it should be the
cause of the totall ruine of these countries by a sheete of
paper, seeing that in former times it hath bin found, that
God did not reiect our righteous cause for want of meane:
besides that the seruices which men continually shall then
pay, will also amount vnto a great summe of mony, that in
some consideration they may well be esteemed to be able
to defray the charges of an armie in the field.

Touching the Article beginning,
It is also further alledged, &c.

BEfore *Lipsius* began to be in some reputation, the best
experienced and wisest men on the enemies side, as a-
mong the rest, the President *Vigilius*, *Hopperus*, *Affanville*,
and *Richardet*, as also *Taxis* and others among the Spani-
ards held the way of truce to be the surest meanes to bring
vs into subiection. And to the contrary, the best and faith-
fullest men on our side did esteeme all kindes of truce to
be a meanes to ruinate our countries; and the enemye ma-
nifestly sheweth, that he hopeth by this Truce to attaine
his desire, for that in the beginning of this treatie he hath
sought by bribes to bring the same to effect: and *Lipsius*
letter.

letter sufficiently sheweth, how much the subiects are to doubt of their soueraigntie; and without having the full soueraigntie, these countries in that respect shal be brought into the state of subiection.

Touching the Article beginning,
And examples manifest, &c.

IF we will helpe our selues with examples, it is ten to one that all those that too lightly beleued and credited their enemy, were deceiued, and vtterly spoiled.

Touching the Article beginning,
Therefore you must vpon this subiect remember the treatie, &c.

THe pacification of Gaunt, was made by the States of the Provinces themselves: but in all other Treaties that we haue made with the King of Spaine, we were deceiued; and the Treatie of Colen did not onely cause a great diuision among vs, but also separated a great part of our Prouinces from vs, which by this coniunction we may well perceiue.

Touching the Article beginning,
The example of the Switzers, &c.

THis comparison is altogether vnlikely; for the Switzers made a Truce with an Earle of Habsburgh, against whom in foure and twentie yeares they could bring a great number of souldiers; whereas we, to the contrary, haue to deale with the mightiest King in Europe, with whom, in respect of our offences, we are vnreconcilable. As also the example set downe in the proposition of the Ambassadors touching *Christiernus* King of Denmarke, is here of no force, because it was an electiue kingdome, wherein the son doth not succeed the father, without a former election,

and the said King also was committed to prison, and another chosen in his place.

Touching the Article beginning,
Now you may hope, &c.

And the following beginning,
It is God onely, &c.

THe forces by water, and the number of expert sailers, are here not to be reckoned, in regard that all the danger that we are to feare, is by land, against the which the situation and the strong rivers cannot helpe vs, without a great force of men, and for that all the strength of these Prouinces onely consisteth in forreine souldiers; it is certaine, that after the losse thereof, which might fall vpon vs, aide would come too late out of France, Great Britaine, and without a cleare and euident soueraignie, there are as many reasons after the Truce to doubt of aide, as we haue to assure our selues thereof.

Touching the Article beginning,
Then make not your resolution, &c.

TO this they may answer that haue made and sent forth some writings, thereby to moue the people to rebellion, and such as haue not addrested themselues thereunto as they ought to haue done.

Touching the Article beginning,
Some will perswade themselves, &c.

Don Pedro de Toledo being yet in Spaine, his Excellencie receiued certaine and true intelligence, that the said Don Pedro shoud be sent into France, to breake this treatie of peace, and to practise a truce, for that the Archdukes Deputies had giuen way, by treatie of peace, into the Soueraignie; which therefore by meanes of a Truce they must

like

seeke to repaire: all which his Excellencie, after the breaking of the Treatie of peace, and before the Propositions made by the Ambassadors touching a Truce, declared in a full assembly of the Lords the States Generall, and in all occurrences, the notes made by *Rich: 2^d* touching the Truce, forgotten here behind him in the Hage among his other instructions, containes the same words that are inserted in the aforesaid proposition.

Touching the Article beginning,
Therefore we do not doubt, &c.

WE may well gesse, that the Ambassadors from the King and the Princes haue their particular insighes tending to the good and benefit of their state, which we willingly vnderstand and take in the best meaning, hoping that they also will not mislike that we respect the profit and preleruation of this State, whereunto we are so strictly bound, and therein haue so great an interest, their Honors intreating vs constantly to trust; that we herein deale sincerely and vprightly, as for the best service and benefit of the land, and also of their respective Kings and Princes, we find most conuenient, assuring our selues that in time their Maiesties themselves shall iudge it to be so, and see that we herein haue vied the wisest and best counsell that we could get.

Touching the Article beginning,
We will further adde thus much more, &c.

IF in the time of the Truce, if any mishance should happen, the whole country were lost, without any hope of redresse: whereas to the contrary, the hurt and misfortunes that would happen by warre, are to be repaired, as by experience it appeareth, that we haue preserved the body of the Land without the frontiers, which by Gods blessing we haue wonne, and by meanes of them haue redressed

our state, and now it is time that we should enjoy the fruits
of our fortie yeares warre, and at least to make good con-
ditions, while we have an advantage vpon our enemies,
which being out of our hands, we shall neuer have so good
an occasion againe: for after the Truce, we shall be com-
pelled to humble our selues vnto the enemy, or to enter in-
to a most dangerous, yea and a desperate warre. And as at
diuers times a blanke paper hath bin presented vnto vs to
make a Truce, the like without doubt will be done vnto vs
as often and as many times as we will suffer our selues to be
blindfolded, and content our selues with so obscure and
lame a soueraigntie.

Therefore our meaning and speciall aime is, to be well
secured in these countries by the Truce, that at the least the
Souveraigntie may be set in a good, cleare, sufficient forme,
such as the same shall not onely continue, and haue and
hold her force for the time of the Truce, but also for euer
after the expiration thereof: and that the same shall not be
shadowed nor couered over with caprioufnesse and double
meanings, but made with the same words, according to the
foote of the beginning theretof, wisely and with one con-
sent taken by the resolutions of the 24 of April, the second
of Nouember, and the 23 of December in the last yeares
and the prorogation touching the breaking off of the Trea-
tie of peace, dated the 24 of August, and the acts of the 13
of September last past; as also the aduice of the Ambassa-
dours giuen touching the Soueraigntie, and likewise the
obligation and renouncing contained in the acts, not only
from the King of Spaine, but also from the Archduke. That
so the country may effectually enjoy that, whereon this
Treatie wholly dependeth; and that this propounded So-
ueraigntie may not serue for a pretence to bring vs into a
Treatie, that may be hurtfull and iniurious to this state:
which the better to effect, and to hold and maintaine the
Prouinces in a good peace, vnitie and securitie, for our ad-
uice we thinke it fit, that before we enter into Treatie of
this matter, the Archdukes shall take care to produce the
King

King of Spaines act of clearing the Soueraigntie', which shall be true, sufficient, and wholly conformable vnto the aforefaid resolutions, prorogation, acts, aduices, obligations and renunciations, specially the aforefaid articles, to the end that we may not another time (as by the Treatie of peace) be deceiued.

